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HISTORY

partake his cares. He was indeed ashamed of his errors, and spared no pains to conceal them : but in spite of all his precautions, Mary well knew that he was not strictly faithful to her. . . . She, however, bore her injuries with a meekness and patience which deserved, and gradually obtained, William's esteem and gratitude. Yet there still remained one cause of estrangement.

This was that, in the event of Mary's becoming Queen of England, William would 'hold power only from her bounty and during her pleasure '. Through the agency of Gilbert Burnet a complete explanation was effected. When Mary understood what was amiss she told her husband that she had only recently learnt

' that there was such a difference between the laws of England and the laws of God. But I now promise you that you shall always bear rule ; and, in return, I ask only this, that, as I shall observe the precept which enjoins wives to obey their husbands, you will observe that which enjoins husbands to love their wives.' * Her generous affection completely gained the heart of William. From that time till the sad day when he was carried away in fits from her dying bed, there was entire friendship and confidence between them. Many of her letters to him are extant; and they contain abundant evidence that this man, unamiably as he was in the eyes of the multitude, had succeeded in inspiring a beautiful and virtuous woman, born his superior, with a passion fond even to idolatry.²

Consequently in 1688, when William was preparing to intervene in England, he had no opposition to apprehend from his wife. ' Her understanding had been entirely subjugated by his; and, what is more extraordinary, he had won her entire affection. . . . His empire over her heart was

¹ Macaulay has rendered his authority, Burnet (i. 693), extremely freely.

²II, 822-4, S3^{0.1} (vii).